

# **MAGNOLIA COUNCIL MEETING**

## **Minutes**

Monday, February 8, 2021

6:00 PM

Magnolia Fire Hall

### CALL TO ORDER

Made at 6:02 pm.

Annual Council Meeting

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

Mayor James Frazier, Vice Mayor Scott Fowler and Councilman Buck Dougherty were present. Councilwoman Barbara Adams was present virtually. Dustan Russum; Water System Operator, Ralph Satterfield; Water assistant and Diane Cahall; Clerk were also present. Ashton McLaughlin has emailed council that she will be resigning from Town Council due to demanding work schedule. Mayor Frazier will speak with Ashton this week and verify that her decision is final; perhaps she will stay available for council meetings and pass her Facebook duties to another. Pending Ashton's resignation; Ralph Satterfield advised Ryan Clark of 9 North Main St. has shown interest in council.

### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO PUBLISHED AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the published agenda.

## COUNCIL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

James Frazier made a motion to accept the minutes of the last council meeting, as provided by Secretary. Scott Fowler seconded the motion. Motion carried. Scott Fowler noted that the town financials are in great shape.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report was presented to members by Diane Cahall. Diane also provided a breakdown of funding received to date on the Infrastructure Grant; noting we will pay two invoices at the March meeting. Scott Fowler made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and pay the bills. Buck Dougherty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Dustan Russum presented the following water report: The town used 1,328,000 gallons of water during January 2021. Pump 2: 575,000 gallons. Pump 3: 753,000 gallons. Pump 2 ran 38.3 hours; Pump 3 ran 45.9 hours. Chlorine .69 and Fluoride .4. It was also noted that the temperature in the town hall must remain at least 50 degrees in the winter. Dustan received quote from Barnes Electric to install baseboard electric heat and thermostat for \$1,200. Ralph stated we should get a quote from Thompson Electric to replace the conduit. Ralph also noted he prefers gas heat. The chemicals in the building are eating up the electric conduit. There is currently no heat in the well house. Dustan will get a portable radiator heater from Felton Hardware as a temporary measure. Scott Fowler noted if we lose electric, we lose heat; council approves deferring to electric until spring.

Ralph Satterfield presented the following report: Flushed mains, school and standpipe. Got them to run as good as pale ginger ale or better. A patriotic citizen Major Jim Quillen, USAF Retired noticed our flag was a little frayed and donated a new one. Its cotton, I have been wanting to try cotton to see if they last longer. Buck and I have been clearing our sidewalk of ice and snow. Most of the town needs to copy from us. NB&C on the tower to survey for new owner. Pump house #2 has no heat, coldest nights ran 35-40 degrees. Time to get heat. Speed sign was up and running; but is out again.

#### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVMENTS:

Scott Fowler advised that sealed bids for the project were received on January 28, 2021. Bids were opened and publicly announced. Duffield Associates, LLC recommended the Town of Magnolia accept the low Base Bid of Reybold Construction Group, LLC in the amount of \$866,978.00 and award the project to them. Scott mentioned that the original amount of pipe was 1,800 feet and now the project requires 2,700 feet. The project is lower in other areas, so it all weighs out, for example: if we must replace concrete in portion of the road. Mayor Frazier made a motion to accept the bid from Reybold Construction Group, LLC with Duffield administering. Buck Dougherty seconded the motion; Motion passed. Scott Fowler will email Duffield that Reybold received the bid. Council discussed the new service is just to the curb stop of residence property. Ralph Satterfield recommended that we notify customers if they want to replace/renew their pipes, the time would be when the roads are torn up.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

## **ANNUAL MEETING:**

Mayor Frazier advised council that incumbents Barbara Adams and Scott Fowler to not have to be sworn in again.

James Frazier made a motion to keep the 2021 quarterly water rate and 2021 annual tax rate the same as 2020. All council voted in favor; Motion passed.

James Frazier made a motion to reappoint all 2020 seats for 2021 year as follows; Mayor James Frazier, Vice Mayor Scott Fowler, Town Solicitor: Barrett Edwards, Water Supervisor: Dustan Russum, Water Assistant: Ralph Satterfield, Secretary/Treasurer: Diane Cahall.

Barbara Adams seconded the motion and all council voted in favor; Motion passed.

## **CODE OF ETHICS:**

Mayor Frazier attended a training meeting and consulted with Attorney Barrett Edwards regarding Code of Ethics. Town of Magnolia will use Town of Magnolia, Duties of Town Council Members and Staff form. All members and staff will review, sign and date the form which will be filed in the town hall. This is a town form and has no state affiliation.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Water on Roadway: no report
- b. Properties and Code Enforcement: no report
- c. Facebook: no report
- d. Mail/Package Deliveries: no report
- e. Curb Painting: no report
- f. Traffic Assessment (Follow up): Council reviewed page 7 of the

assessment:

\*DelDot does not support: Rest In red signal operation stating it violates motorist expectancy and never used in Delaware:

THIS WAS RECOMMENDED TO THE TOWN BY CONSULTANT  
AT A COST OF \$20,000.

\*DelDot does not support: Likely requires “extra” all-red phase in recall, wasted time throughout the day.

TOWN QUESTIONS: WHOSE TIME?

\*DelDot reports: Motorist may increase speeds between stops to compensate for lost time.

WRONG; THIS SHOULD NOT BE A LOST TIME ISSUE.

\*DelDot reports: Speed study shows low speeds through  
Town/approaching signal.

WRONG, STUDIES SHOW 85% OF TRAFFIC TRAVELING  
THROUGH MAGNOLIA SPEED.

\*DelDot reports: Enforcement should be pursued if there are concerns with excessive speeding.

TOWNS RESPONSE: WE CAN'T MAKE THE STATE POLICE COME AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Town will contact Representative Charles Postles and Levy Court Commissioner Eric Buckson regarding speeding in Magnolia.

ADJOURNMENT:

Scott Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Frazier. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane P. Cahall